clarifying a mycelium broth and concentrating the clarified broth to a lower volume,

acidifying the concentrate to a pH value in the range of 4.5 to 7.5, followed by extracting the HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor with ethyl acetate;

optionally performing lactonization;

crystallizing the HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor from:

i) a water miscible organic solvent; and

ii) an organic solvent having limited miscibility with water including higher alkyl alcohols such as butanol, isobutanol, amyl alcohol, hexanol, 2-ethylhexanol, benzyl alcohol and cyclohexanol, higher alkyl ketones such as methylbutyl ketone, methyl isobutyl ketone and cyclohexanone, esters such as methyl acetate, ethyl acetate, n-propyl and isopropyl acetate, t-butyl, isobutyl and sec-butyl acetate and amyl acetate, ethers such as diethyl ether and diisopropyl ether, chlorinated hydrocarbons such as methylene chloride and chloroform, acetonitrile and the like, including mixtures of these solvents.

34. (once amended) The process according to claim 24, wherein the water-miscible organic solvent used in the crystallization step is acetone or a low alkyl alcohol.

35. (once amended) The process according to claim 24, wherein the crystallization step from a water-miscible organic solvent comprises dissolving the HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor in acetone, and then adding water thereto.

36. (twice amended) The process according to claim 24, wherein the crystallization step from an organic solvent having limited miscibility with water comprises dissolving the HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor in said organic solvent at a concentration of 10 to 35 g/L, and removing one-third to three-fourth of said organic solvent.

37. (twice amended) The process according to claim 24, wherein the organic solvent having limited miscibility with water used in the crystallization step is ethyl acetate.

40. (twice amended) A process for the purification of HMG-CoA reductase inhibitors which comprises subjecting the HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor to combined crystallization steps, which consist of crystallization from a water-miscible organic solvent and crystallization from an organic solvent having limited miscibility with water including higher alkyl alcohols such as butanol, isobutanol, amyl alcohol, hexanol, 2-ethylhexanol, benzyl alcohol and cyclohexanol, higher alkyl ketones such as methylbutyl ketone, methyl isobutyl ketone and cyclohexanone, esters such as methyl acetate, ethyl acetate, n-propyl and isopropyl acetate, t-butyl, isobutyl and sec-butyl acetate and amyl acetate, ethers such as diethyl ether and diisopropyl ether, chlorinated hydrocarbons such as methylene chloride and chloroform, acetonitrile and the like, including mixtures of these solvents, as final steps to obtain HMG-CoA reductase inhibitors having a purity higher than 99.6%.

42. (once amended) The process according to claim 40, wherein acetone or a low alkyl alcohol is used as the water-miscible organic solvent.